

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informality: There is a misplaced "d" on line 3 of claim 7. Appropriate correction is required. This objection is necessitated by amendment. Applicants traverse this objection and request reconsideration.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, 20-24 and 35-47, rendering the objection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 20-24 and 45 stand rejected under;35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This rejection is necessitated by amendment. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, 20-24 and 35-47, rendering the rejection moot.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The rejection of claim 19 stands maintained and newly applied to new claims 18, 35-42, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Applicants have amended claims 18 and 19 and point out that claims 18 and 19 depend indirectly from claim 10 which the Examiner has determined are allowed. Therefore, claim 18 and 19 must also represent allowed claims. Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, 20-24 and 35-47, rendering the remaining portion of this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The rejection of **claims 1-5,7-9, and 20-23** is necessitated by amendmenfunder 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and (b) as being anticipated by Williams (WO 00/36151 under 102(a)) and Brandis (Nucleic Acids Research, 1999, Vol. 27, No.8 under 102(b)). Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, 20-24 and 35-47, rendering the objection moot.

New Claim 48-49

Applicant has rewritten claim 6 in independent form as claim 48 and have made claim 49 dependent from claim 48.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 10-17, and 43 stand allowable.

Claim 44 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the remaining claims be passed onto allowance.

If it would be of assistance in resolving any issues in this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact applicant's attorney Robert W. Strozier at 713.977.7000

Date: **October 22, 2004**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Strozier', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Strozier

Reg. No. 34,024